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'CARE FARM' VISION REALISED

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Eco centre will provide a natural learning environment for vulnerable people

THE widow of a Rufford man who had a dream to create a natural learning environment for vulnerable people says that his vision has now been realised with the official opening of a centre dedicated to his memory.

The dedication of the Apple Cast Eco Centre in memory of Eric Jones, featuring respite care lodges and a disability cycle way, was officially launched in Newburgh at an event attended by West Lancs MP, Rosie Cooper.

Apple Cast is a Newburgh-based charity supporting children and young people who are excluded from school or who can't attend mainstream education for social, emotional or health reasons or disability.

It was formed in 2016 with the amalgamation of two other charities, Cast North West and the Red Apple Trust which was founded by the late Eric Jones, a solicitor who had previously run Skelmersdale charity, Tomorrow's People Today providing training and work opportunities for young people.

Cast NW meanwhile utilised angling and horticulture to divert young people away from anti-social behaviour.

Eric had a vision to create a natural environment for vulnerable people to work and train but he died in 2012 before it could be fully realised. However, following his death Apple Cast chief Neil Farnworth carried on the dream.

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper and Mrs Christine Jones at the official opening of the Apple Cast Eco Centre, in memory of Eric Jones.

At the dedication of the centre, Eric's widow, Christine said: "It is with great pride that I'm here today to see the official opening of the Apple Cast Eco Centre in memory of Eric recognising the work he did to create the beginnings of what we see here now.

"In 2008 Eric had a dream of setting up a 'care farm' - somewhere where adults or young adults from a range of vulnerable groups could spend time in a peaceful environment working with nature; learning horticultural skills and working with

Continued inside

Parbold Douglas CE Academy pupils helped long-serving lollipop lady Brenda Entwistle celebrate her 80th birthday.

School's 80th birthday treat for long-serving lollipop lady Brenda

WEST Lancashire's longest-serving 'lollipop lady' celebrated her 80th birthday with pupils at the primary school where she has served for 46 years.

Brenda Entwistle - simply known as Brenda Lollipop to many of her young charges - has been helping youngsters from Parbold Douglas CE Academy across the busy Lancaster Lane since 1972.

And, as well as three generations of schoolchildren, the cheerful crossing attendant has become a popular 'fixture' in the lives of countless passing motorists and truck drivers who she shares a cheery wave with each morning.

To help celebrate her 80th birthday, the school invited her to a special assembly where she was presented with a lollipop-themed cake and flowers. And she later enjoyed a lunch prepared in her honour with the children.

Originally from Yorkshire where she ran a village playgroup group, Brenda says she never thinks of her role as a chore as she just loves getting up in the morning to see the children.

"I have loved very single minute. I share a smile, a wave and occasionally a little joke with most of the children. It's a pleasure so I don't think of it as work but just having fun with the children."

And although she is able to tell some of the youngsters about

Continued inside

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Council services and opening times over festive period

WEST Lancs Council has announced details of council services over the Christmas and New Year period.

The council offices at Derby Street, Ormskirk, and the Customer Service Point at the Concourse, Skelmersdale, will close at noon on Monday, December 24 and reopen at 9am on Wednesday, January 2.

Services will operate as outlined below and further information can be found at www.westlancs.gov.uk

Customer services/telephone enquiries

The Customer Contact Centre will close at noon on December 24 and reopen at 8.30am on January 2. The phone number remains the same for emergency calls when the offices are closed 01695 577177.

Revenue and benefits service

The service will close at noon on December 24 and reopen at 8.30am on January2. You can still make payments during this period by using the automated telephone payment line available 24 hours a day on 01695 585150 or by visiting the council's website at www.westlancs.gov.uk.

Emergency housing services

Emergency repairs will be carried out over the holiday period and tenants who require an emergency repair should telephone 01695 577177. This number can also be used for all other housing emergencies (including homelessness).

Refuse and recycling

Bins which would usually be collected on Tuesday, December 25 and Wednesday, December 26 will be collected on Thursday, December27; bins usually collected on the Thursday will be collected the following day, Friday, December 28. There is no change to the usual Friday service. Bins which would normally be collected on Tuesday, January 1 will be collected on Wednesday, January 2. There will be no change to Wednesday's service.

All garden waste collections will be suspended for two weeks commencing Monday, December 24 while other materials for recycling will be collected as normal.

For more details on refuse and recycling collections over the festive period, visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/refuse.

If you need to dispose of a real Christmas tree after the holidays make sure you have subscribed to the garden waste service at www.westlancs.gov.uk/gardenwaste.

Chop it up and place it in your brown bin to be collected by the waste team when garden waste collections resume in the week beginning Monday, January 7.

Opening of council-run facilities

Chapel Gallery: Closed from Saturday, December 22 and will reopen on Thursday, 27 December until Saturday, December 29 when it will close again before reopening on January 2.

Ormskirk Market: There will be a market as normal on Thursday and Saturday, December 27 and 29.

Car parks: Parking will be free on all council-managed pay and display car parks on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 25 and 26 and Tuesday, January 1.

Beacon Park Golf Centre: Closed from 3pm on Monday, December 24 until 9am of Thursday, December 27. It will close again from 3pm on Sunday, December 30 until 9am on January 2.

West Lancashire Community Leisure Trust-managed facilities.

Banks Leisure Centre: Open as normal up to 10pm on Friday, December 21 then closed on Saturday, December, 22. It will be open Sunday, December 23 from 9am to 3pm and then closed from Monday, December 24 until reopening as usual on January 2 at 10am.

Nye Bevan Pool: Closed from 4pm Sunday, December 23 until 8am Thursday, December 27. It will close again from Sunday, December 30 and open as usual on January 2.

Park Pool: Closed from 4pm Sunday, December 23 until 7am Thursday, December 27. Then it will close again from Sunday, December 30 and open as usual on January 2.

Burscough Racquet & Fitness Centre: Closed from 4pm on Sunday, December 23 until Thursday, December 27 when it will reopen at 4pm and close at 10pm. Then it will be open on Friday, December 28 from 4 to 8pm and on Saturday and Sunday, December 29 and 30 from 8am to 4pm. It will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 31 and January 1 and will open as usual on January 2.

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Burscough property was part of region-wide cannabis farm operation

Vietnamese drugs gang jailed for total of 35 years

MEMBERS of a Vietnamese gang which made hundreds of thousands of pounds in a sophisticated cannabis farm operation operating across the North West, including West Lancashire, have been jailed for a combined total of more than 35 years.

The gang, many of whom claimed to have been victims of trafficking in order to evade prosecution, used false identities and fraudulent documents to rent 21 properties across the region - including a house in Orrell Lane, Burscough - before turning them into cannabis farms. 'Gardeners' would then be employed to visit the houses and tend the crops.

The enterprise was overseen by Jack Nguyen, 28, and Trang Nguyen, 28, assisted by Hoai Nguyen, 18, and Jack's girlfriend, Thanh Thi Nguyen, 21.

They rented the properties duping potential landlords by posing as a couple with a baby on the way or with a new-born child. To avoid leaving a trail of evidence they used false names and documentation and always paid deposits in cash.

Properties were also rented in Liverpool, Preston, Blackpool, and Oswaldtwistle.

When Lancashire Constabulary executed warrants in March this year as part of an investigation entitled Operation Renard, they recovered cannabis valued at just under a million pounds, plus a quarter of a million pounds in cash.

Video footage seized by police shows a toddler playing a with a wad of cash believed to be the proceeds of the gang's drug dealing.

The cannabis farm discovered at Orrell Lane, Burscough.

A total of 14 members of the gang were jailed at Preston Crown Court for conspiracy to produce and supply cannabis, while two, including Hoai Nguyen, 18, were jailed for money laundering.

Ringleader Jack Nguyen and his girlfriend Thanh Thi Nguyen, 21, were convicted of both conspiracy to produce and supply cannabis and money laundering and were jailed for seven years and four months, and three years and nine months respectively.

DS Stu Peall, from the East Exploitation Team, said: "I welcome these sentences which reflect the serious nature of the offending. This was a sophisticated organised criminal group making huge amounts of money from their operation which stretched across the North West.

"Lancashire Constabulary will continue to proactively target the production of cannabis which can have lasting physical and mental health effects on users, as well as having a negative effect on our communities and fuelling other crime and we are determined to tackle that.

"We need the public to continue to work with us to help us tackle drug crime by informing us of any suspicious activity."

'Care Farm' vision realised

From Page 1

animals. Neil and his team have realised Eric's dream and much more and I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart."

Apple Cast provides a variety of activities including working with small farm animals, horticulture, conservation, indoor and outdoor angling, fish breeding, aquaponics, agriculture and bespoke woodwork shops.

The new respite lodges have been designed to accommodate children and young people in care in crisis. Another three-bed lodge will be opened next year which will provide respite for young people and carers and also be disability-friendly.

The disability cycle path, about a mile in length and encircling the Apple Cast facilities, is scheduled to open next April and it is planned to make it accessible to the local community as a safe environment for people to cycle.

Neil Farnworth says the charity is keen to form partnerships with groups in West Lancs who work in the same sector.

He said: "The centre was dedicated in memory of Eric to commemorate what he had done. We would not have got this far without his vision with Red Apple Trust .

"Now we are looking for charities to work in partnership with us to improve the wellbeing of more people and reach more people from the local area."

School's 80th birthday treat for long-serving lollipop lady

From page 1

helping their grandparents across the road, she says she dosen't feel her age and has no plans to retire.

"I've already told my boss - 'don't think you can get rid of me because I'm not going!'"

Jo Jarvis, school business manager at Parbold Douglas CE Academy, said: "Every single day, Brenda lights up the lives of countless people, waving and smiling at vehicles passing by. I can say with confidence that hundreds of people start their busy working day feeling that bit happier thanks to Brenda!

"All pupils, past and present, love Brenda. She takes time to speak to everyone, radiating love and care and when you consider she has been doing this for 46 years, she truly is a amazing."

Council says CCTV operation is a vital tool in keeping community safe

WEST Lancs Council chiefs say the authority and its partners are working hard to ensure residents are safe in the run-up to Christmas.

The council's CCTV system watches over the borough and provides reassurance to the community, as well as a valuable crime-fighting tool for the police.

The cameras are monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and operators are providing valuable assistance in preventing and solving crime.

In 2017/18 the CCTV unit was involved in 5,633 incidents. In addition to the 236 arrests that the CCTV operators assisted with, a number of the incidents also resulted in the police or PCSOs being able to intervene early to prevent trouble from escalating into something more serious.

Between November 2017 and November 2018, the operators played a key role in increasing road safety by either supporting the police or directly observing 101 incidents involving suspected drunk drivers. The operators also monitor suspected drug use and made 110 reports of possible drug-related incidents during the same period resulting in 74 arrests.

Councillor Kevin Wright.

Operators keep in close contact with local businesses and the police through the Shopwatch radio scheme, meaning officers can be alerted and respond to any incident as quickly as possible.

Councillor Kevin Wright, the council's cabinet member for health and community safety, said: "Crime is low in West Lancashire and we want to keep it that way. Our CCTV system provides excellent value for money in playing a significant role in helping to achieve that.

"With Christmas around the corner we want people to feel safe when they are shopping or enjoying an evening out. I am particularly pleased to see the role that CCTV plays in relation to drunk drivers. Driving under the influence of alcohol is a crime and is extremely dangerous. Please leave your car at home this Christmas."

Heidi McDougall, West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership chairperson, added: "The council's CCTV system is a powerful tool that will assist in not only preventing crime but enable the skilled operators to identify the small minority who are intent on committing crime or anti-social behaviour. We will be working closely with our partners over the festive period to ensure a happy Christmas is had by all and that people feel safe."

There are currently 106 public open space cameras across the borough, including Ormskirk town centre and various key locations.

The council is also urging residents and visitors to remember that excess alcohol and/or the use of drugs can increase your likelihood of committing a crime or becoming a victim of crime.

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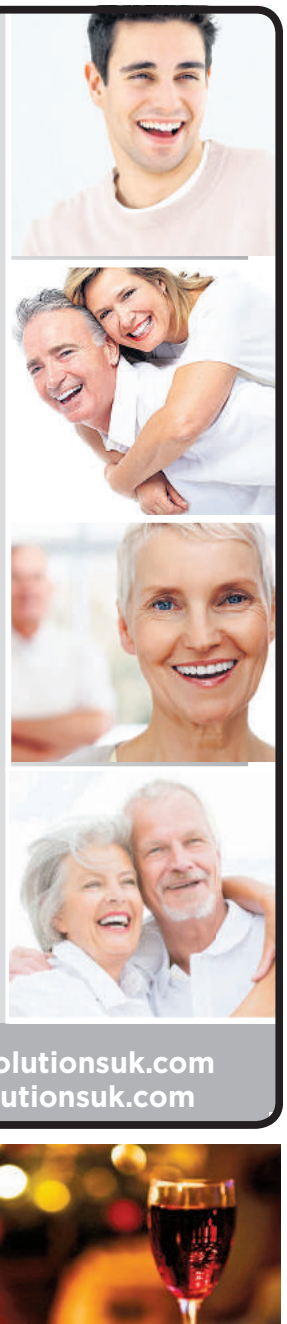

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Talkzone support service for young people available over Christmas and New Year

LANCASHIRE County Council's Talkzone service offering help and advice for young people, will once again be in operation throughout the Christmas and New Year period.

Talkzone offers guidance, support and information by phone, email, text, Facebook, Twitter and webtalk and is aimed at young people between the ages of 12 and 19 or up to 25 for those with special educational needs or a disability.

Provided by the county council's Children and Family Wellbeing Service, it is available between 2 and 10pm, every day of the year, including Christmas Day.

Susie Charles, Lancashire's cabinet member for Children, Young People and Schools, said: "This time of year can be as stressful and challenging for young people as it can be for adults. They can feel as if all their friends are having a good time, while they might be at home with their worries.

"The good news is that you're not alone. Talkzone is staffed by sympathetic workers who are experienced in dealing with a wide range of issues affecting young people. They've probably dealt with every problem and question under the sun at some stage.

"If you're a young person and need to discuss anything, you can ring, text or email and one of our advisers will be there to help."

Since it was set up 24 years ago, Talkzone advisors have responded to thousands of enquiries from young people on a huge range of issues.

Talkzone manager, Gaja Gannon, added: "We have qualified and experienced staff on hand who are used to dealing with anything and everything that young people call about.

"As well as relationship issues, Talkzone also helps young people who find themselves homeless at Christmas, need contraceptive, drugs and alcohol advice; or who need information about finding a job. No matter how big or small the issue is, Talkzone is available to help all young people in Lancashire."

The service will be open from 2 to 10pm throughout the Christmas and New Year period. Young people can ring on 0800 511111, text on 07786 511111, email talkzone@lancashire.gov.uk or make contact via facebook.com/LancashireYZ.

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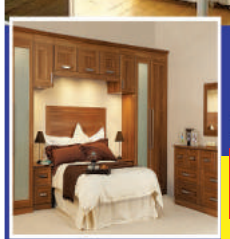
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Make sure your festive fare comes from a registered food vendor

Increase in number of small operators advertising on social media triggers council warning

RESIDENTS in West Lancs planning Christmas parties are being advised to make sure any treats and other food they buy is purchased from a business registered to sell such goods - even if it is a small operation they may have seen on social media.

The advice, issued by the borough council, has been prompted by an increase in the number of small food operators advertising their services on sites such as Facebook and other social media, a number of which are selling Christmas cakes and other festive party food.

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Council's cabinet member for health and community safety, said: "Any person or business that sells food to the public on a regular basis must be registered with the council, even if they are an individual making food in their kitchen at home to sell.

"This is to make sure they are complying with food hygiene regulations and, where appropriate, given a food hygiene rating.

"Whilst we would advise residents to check if any food business is registered for their own peace of mind, we want to support legitimate local business and I would strongly recommend anyone thinking of operating a food business to contact the council's Food Safety team for advice."

People can check if a business is registered and inspected by visiting the Food Standards Agency National Food Hygiene Ratings website at www.food.gov.uk/ratings.

Anyone selling food to the public should register with the council 28 days before they open for business. More information, can be found at www.west-lancs.gov.uk/foodsafety.

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Red Lion manager Chris Scott (centre right) with staff and guests at the lunch.

Community lunch goes down a treat

A VILLAGE pub's free community Christmas lunch offer for pensioners and people living on their own was a resounding success.

More than 30 people from all around the West Lancs area enjoyed the festive feast at the Red Lion in Newburgh, tucking into tomato soup, roast turkey and Christmas pudding. And the over-60s who attended were also given a present and a Christmas card.

Chris Scott, general manager at the Red Lion, said: "It went very well. We have had extremely good feedback, with people saying how good it was.

"This was the first time that we had done this and the idea was to give something back to the community. The initiative came from Marston's brewery's head office and they supplied the food.

"Thanks also to Spinney Care Home for donating money towards a minibus to pick everyone up and to Yvonne, Nicola, Amy and Katrina who were waitresses and Bill, the chef.

"The staff were only too pleased to help the local community and it was a really good day. We are looking at doing another one next year."

Council leader's Christmas message

THE leader of West Lancashire Borough Council has thanked council staff and voluntary workers in his seasonal address, and while acknowledging the financial challenges ahead in 2019, he says the future is "very bright" for the borough.

After wishing residents a "very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year", Councillor Ian Moran said: "As Christmas is almost upon us I would ask people in West Lancashire to remember that while this is a joyful time for many, we should all spare a thought for those who may need a helping hand over the festive period.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank council staff for their hard work over the last 12 months. Our employees are among our greatest assets and they deserve praise for the commitment they show to working for the people of West Lancashire.

"I would also like to praise the work of people in voluntary sector organisations who give up their time to help others in the local community, some of whom can be very vulnerable.

"The authority adopted a new Council Plan earlier this year and this exciting document proves there are exciting times ahead for the whole borough.

"The council is ambitious to ensure the conditions are in place for the people of West Lancashire to live healthy and fulfilling lives. Our Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been officially launched and staff involved in the strategy are

Councillor Ian Moran

working with partners to tackle the health inequalities that exist across the borough.

"Another important initiative showing the council's ambitions around health is our proposal to have new health and well-being centres in Ormskirk and Skelmersdale. We are hoping to go out to consultation on this early in the new year.

"West Lancashire Borough Council is ambitious for the economy. Progress is being made on the exciting project to create a new Skelmersdale town centre. The council is working well with St Modwen and Homes England on this hugely important regeneration project which will benefit not only the people of Skelmersdale, but the whole of West Lancashire. We are looking forward to building work starting on site in 2019.

"The council is also working with businesses and communities across the borough to promote and enhance West Lancashire, including through the Ormskirk Town Centre Management Group, the Skelmersdale Place Board and the Skelmersdale Ambassadors. More than 100 businesses have attended ambassadors events.

"As well as the new town centre project for Skelmersdale the council is leading a fabulous scheme on Skelmersdale's green oasis, Tawd Valley Park, which shows one of the authority's other key priorities which is to be ambitious for the environment. A number of partners are involved in this scheme, including Groundwork and West Lancs CVS, and work is progressing on the Masterplan, with a community orchard being planted and excavation works starting on the new fishing pond.

"In 2019 the council will face financial challenges, like many other local authorities across the UK. The council manages its budgets effectively to ensure the authority provides excellent value for money, and in previous years we have made savings while minimising any effects on services, but now these options are more difficult to find.

"But overall the future looks very bright right across the borough. The council will continue to be ambitious for the borough, ambitious for its people, businesses and places and continue to strive towards achieving the goals in the Council Plan as it aims to make West Lancashire an even better place to live, work and do business."

County council urged to 'come clean' on cuts to school buses

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE County Council's Labour group are calling on council chiefs to 'come clean' on budget proposals to cut school buses.

They say the Conservative administration is proposing to save £100,000 but without identifying which bus services will be cut.

Labour councillors believe the proposal is likely to have the greatest impact on children living in rural and low population areas where travelling numbers are low. And they say that the removal of school buses will add to the closure of shops, post offices and services that are already undermining close community structures, leaving people with a greater sense of isolation.

County Councillor Erica Lewis, Labour's highways and transport shadow, said: "In order to identify the budget saving they must know the school bus services they want to cut. Parents need to plan how their children will be getting to school next September.

"With no alternative transport parents will have to make some very serious decisions, which could affect the whole family and their futures."

Leader of the council, County Councillor Geoff Driver responded: "Of course we will be contacting the families concerned because we recognise the impact this proposal will have on them.

"Interestingly, County Councillor Lewis offers no alternative way out of the financial mess her Labour colleagues left us and I await with interest to see their budget proposals in February next year."

Quiz night fundraiser success inspires pensioner's lifetime pledge to support charities

A PENSIONER from West Lancs has pledged to dedicate the rest of his life to raising funds for two charities which supported his late wife.

Ron Snape from Rufford recently raised more than £1,000 for Parkinson's UK and the North West Air Ambulance with a quiz night and raffle at his local village pub, the Hesketh Arms.

And encouraged by the success of his first fundraising effort, the 81-year-old is determined to do more to boost the coffers of the two organisations.

Ron's wife Pauline passed away at the age of 79 in August following a five-year battle with Parkinson's disease.

Shortly after she was diagnosed with the degenerative disorder of the central nervous system she fell down the stairs suffering a broken neck and had to be airlifted to hospital in Liverpool.

Now Ron has been inspired to raise funds for the two causes to say thanks to Parkinson's UK for their support over the years and to the North West Air Ambulance for helping to save Pauline's life after her fall.

Ron Snape is raising funds for Parkinson's UK and the NW Air Ambulance in memory of his late wife.

The quiz night at the Hesketh Arms was a great success with more than 100 people turning up in response to posters placed around the village, posts on social media and an article in the Champion.

Local businesses also rallied round, donating prizes for the raffle and the grand total raised on the night was £1,040.

Now a number of local venues - including churches and pubs - have offered to host coffee mornings to help Ron in his quest to continue raising money for the charities, with dates to be confirmed in the New Year.

He says: "The quiz at the Hesketh Arms has really given me a lift and spurred me on.

"I am 81 years old and there's nothing much left for me to do now so I'm going to spend the rest of my time - however long that may be - raising as much money as I can for Parkinson's UK and the North West Air Ambulance."

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Be prepared if illness strikes

Report by **Kenny Parker**

HEALTH chiefs at the NHS West Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are urging residents in the borough to be prepared should they or a loved one become unwell in the holiday season.

Residents are reminded that their local pharmacy can offer free, confidential and expert advice on a range of health issues. They can also help you to self-care and prepare for many common winter illnesses and offer advice on which medicines to keep in stock at home.

Pharmacies open over the festive season are as follows:

Christmas Day: (all 10am to 1pm) Rowlands, Tarleton; Ormskirk Medical Practice Pharmacy; O'Brien's Pharmacy, Burscough; and Rowlands, Skelmersdale.

Boxing Day: Rowlands, Tarleton (10 am to 1pm); O'Brien's Pharmacy, Burscough (10am to 1pm); Rowlands, Ormskirk (10am to 1pm); Asda Pharmacy, Skelmersdale (9am to 6pm); Morrisons Pharmacy, Ormskirk (10am to 4pm); and Boots, Ormskirk (11am to 4pm).

New Year's Day: O'Brien's Pharmacy, Burscough(10am to 1pm); Trust Pharmacy, Hesketh Bank (10am to 1pm); Rufford Pharmacy, Rufford(10am to 1pm); Asda Pharmacy, Skelmersdale (10am to 5pm); and Morrisons Pharmacy, Ormskirk (10am to 4pm).

You can also find a wealth of trusted advice about hundreds of health conditions and details of GPs, pharmacies in your local area by visiting www.nhs.uk. This useful website also includes a handy symptom checker.

If you need medical help or advice fast, but it is not a 999 emergency, you can also call the NHS 111 service. This is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and calls are free from mobiles and landlines.

You can also access NHS 111 online, by visiting www.111.nhs.uk.

Your GP should be your first point of contact for non-emergency illnesses you can't treat yourself. A GP will be available from 8am to 6.30pm weekdays (local GP practice times may vary).

In West Lancashire, patients can also now access a GP in the evening and at the weekend, seven days a week, including all bank holidays (except Christmas Day).

Dr John Caine, chair of NHS West Lancashire CC.

The service is offered from Sandy Lane Health Centre in Skelmersdale; Ormskirk Medical Centre and Burscough Health Centre,

Availability is limited on Boxing Day to the Sandy Lane Health Centre between 10am and 4pm and on New Year's Day to the Ormskirk Medical Centre between 10am and 2pm. There is no service available on Christmas Day.

West Lancashire has two walk-in centres where staff can treat minor injuries and minor ailments - the West Lancashire Urgent Care Centre, based at Ormskirk Hospital, Wigan Road, and the Skelmersdale Walk-in Centre at The Concourse.

Both centres are open seven days a week, from 8am to 8pm including over the holiday period except for Christmas Day when the Ormskirk centre is open from 9am to 5pm and the Skelmersdale centre from 10am to 2pm.

For emergency dental treatment when your dentist is closed, call 0300 1234 010.

Dr John Caine, a GP in West Lancashire and chair of NHS West Lancashire CCG, said: "During the winter months and especially over the festive period, it is really important we all know where to go if we, or a loved one falls ill.

"If you have a repeat prescription ensure that you don't leave it too late to get the medicine you need. And remember that for anything non-urgent, such as minor illnesses like coughs and colds, scrapes or sprains you can visit your local pharmacist in the first instance, who will be able to assist.

"It's important that we keep GP appointments free for more urgent medical needs."

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WEDNESDAYS
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Police commissioner's concerns over funding

£6.8m grant boost 'welcome' but not enough to offset pensions deficit and Government accused of 'passing burden to Council Taxpayers - again'!

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, has expressed concern that the Government has "once again passed the burden" of the cost of policing onto Council Taxpayers, following the proposals announced in the House of Commons.

Policing Minister Nick Hurd revealed the latest financial settlement for police and crime commissioners across the country, with next year's Central Grant funding allocation to Lancashire increasing by £6.8m.

But while Mr Grunshaw welcomed any additional grant, he said it didn't even cover the increase to employer pension contributions for policing, announced in September.

The consequences of dealing with this pensions deficit is forecast to cost Lancashire Constabulary around £7.1m per year from 2019/20 - the equivalent of more than 150 police officers.

The Government also announced greater flexibility for increasing the Council Tax precept which contributes to police funding, up to £24 a year on a Band D equivalent property.

Clive Grunshaw.

The minister recognised that the police service had met every requirement set in the 2018/19 settlement to secure the funding arrangement made for 2019/20, including £120m of savings nationally.

Failed

Mr Grunshaw said: "Through this announcement the Government has once again failed to provide additional money towards front-line policing, with any additional money from central government covering the costs of the unfunded increase in police pensions, which undermined all previous planned budget assumptions.

"Once again the Government has passed the buck on to Council Tax payers and failed to address the concerns raised up and down the country that after eight years of budget cuts, removing £84m - equivalent to more than 25% of the budget in 2010/11 - from policing in Lancashire with a further £18m still to find over the next few years.

"The ability to invest in our policing teams and meet the pressures on the service is completely reliant on raising Council Tax by the highest amount we can.

"The Government know this and once again are failing to be honest with the public, failing to address the actual cause which is years of austerity in policing.

"This announcement, whilst on the face of it a step in the right direction, doesn't come close to addressing the issues faced by Lancashire Police after cutting too far and too fast for the last seven years."

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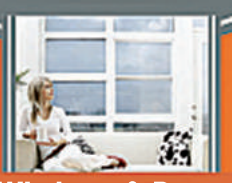

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Spreading the Makaton message

Nursing student uses signing skills to help improve lives of people in local community with learning disabilities

A DEDICATED nursing student has used the skills she has learned on her degree course at Edge Hill University to improve life in her local community for those with learning disabilities or sensory issues.

Laura Flanagan from Skelmersdale has learned Makaton sign language which she put to use in her part-time job in a shop, as well as using her knowledge to make the shopping environment more relaxed for customers who suffer with sensory issues. Makaton uses signs, symbols and speech to help people communicate.

The 20-year-old said: "I had a discussion with a customer who was asking about my course and she said that she had never encountered a shop worker who spoke to her daughter who has a learning disability and profound autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and who communicates through Makaton and facial expressions.

"I spoke to my manager about printing off a crib sheet that showed staff how to sign welcome greetings. I then used it when talking to shoppers with hearing impairments and they reacted positively, thanking me for using signs rather than purely speech.

Laura Flanagan

"I also explained how larger supermarkets have a 'quiet hour' within the shop and how this would benefit shoppers with sensory disorders, or who have children who are hypersensitive.

"We trialled the idea on a Saturday between 9 and 10am by turning lights off and putting on relaxation music, as usually the only noise that could be heard was buzzing from the freezers and fridges, and the feedback we received was positive."

Laura uses Makaton signing to converse with residents at a local care home. But although the use of Makaton continues to grow, she feels more can be done to change perceptions about its everyday use.

"There is a need for exposure in other areas aside from children's TV channels such as CBeebies, as this has added to the suggestion that people with learning disabilities are 'eternal children'," said Laura.

"I enjoyed watching Dr Ranj Singh on Strictly Come Dancing recently, as each week he would teach his dance partner a sign which they would do before performing. I found this a great way to broadcast Makaton on a media platform and hope more public figures will begin signing."

Laura is also keen to encourage others to follow her career path and visited her former college to talk about her own application experience and offer support to students looking to pursue a similar route.

"I delivered a presentation about the application process, and the realities of university life. I also provided a contact for local students going through UCAS clearing, who could contact me if they wanted to talk to someone who had been in a similar situation."

During her time at Edge Hill Laura was awarded student learning disability nurse of the year for her cohort. She was also selected for a Chancellor's scholarship in 2018, being awarded £2,000 towards her studies.

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Villagers' parking issue resolved

OUR West Lancashire say residents of a village in the borough are benefiting from extra parking spaces after ward councillors helped to persuade the council to take action.

Limited parking spaces for neighbours in bungalows in Holly Close, Westhead previously resulted in on-street parking, compromising access for emergency vehicles and council bin wagons.

After residents first raised the issue with OWL Councillor Adrian Owens, he took the matter up with council officers and the authority has now constructed 10 additional parking spaces, resolving the access and parking problems.

Cllr. Owens said "I'd like to thank the council's portfolio holder for housing and landlord services, Councillor Jenny Forshaw, for her support. She immediately understood the problem and took the project forward."

Fellow OWL Councillor Ian Davis, who lives in the village, added: "This makes the everyday task of using the car much less stressful and hazardous for everyone living in that part of Holly Close."

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£12m-plus annual cost of unnecessary ambulance call-outs

Report by **Henry James**

MORE than £1million of taxpayers' money is wasted EVERY MONTH on false or pointless calls to the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS).

According to the latest figures released by the charity, there are more than 1,180 ambulance responses to locations where no patients are found each month, costing the NHS more than £170,000.

And a further 6,200-plus responses are made to people who refuse care and treatment from paramedics when they arrive on the scene, costing a whopping £900,000 a month.

The North West Ambulance Service's 999 calls are all handled across three centres, with calls from Sefton and West Lancashire are all processed in these offices. With every single call-out costing £145, the total cost of wasted ambulance journeys to the region's ambulance service, and the public purse is more than , £12.8 million a year.

This staggering sum could pay for any of the following vital items of equipment - 92 brand new, fully-kitted emergency ambulances; salaries and staffing costs for 286 paramedics or 390 emergency medical technicians; 1,071 monitoring devices for heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen levels and to defibrillate patients in cardiac arrest; 2,571,024 blankets to keep patients warm; 1,071 ambulance stretchers!

Ged Blezard.

The charity has published the figures as part of its Make the Right Call campaign, which urges the public to choose the right NHS service to get the most appropriate care and ensure ambulances only go to people who really need them.

Ged Blezard, director of operations at NWAS, said: "The cost of wasted journeys is significant, but so is the amount of time that we spend looking for people who we think need our help when we could actually be helping someone else.

"There are many reasons why people may not be there when our crews arrive; sometimes they decide to go to hospital with a family member, or get treatment elsewhere, but don't let us know. This could be down to unrealistic expectations of how quickly ambulances respond, or because we are simply that busy that they, unfortunately, have to wait longer for a response than we would like.

"It is really important that if people no longer need us they call 999 to cancel so that we can get to the next patient quickly and don't waste time trying to find people who don't need or want our help.

"Winter is always the busiest time of year for the ambulance service. 999 calls increase as the weather gets colder and party season is underway. It's even more important at this time of year that you help us to help you.

"We want people to do the right thing first which will get them the best care; this means calling 999 when someone is seriously ill or injured and their life is at risk. For urgent medical advice when it's not an emergency they can get advice at 111.nhs.uk. Call 999 to cancel an ambulance if it's no longer needed."

ADVERTISING FEATURE

WWT Martin Mere news

Have a WILD WINTER at Martin Mere Wetland Centre

At Martin Mere Wetland Centre we're here for you and for wildlife 364 days a year, so don't let a little thing like the weather put you off spending a day in the great outdoors. This Christmas holiday, throw on a coat, grab your wellies and head out for a wild winter adventure – we're open every day apart from Christmas Day!

Wetlands are incredible spaces teeming with wildlife all year round. Visit us this season and you'll be amazed to discover that while a lot of animals do leave or nod off in the colder months, there's still a lot that's wide awake. Seasonal wildlife spectaculars include flocks of pink footed geese, lapwing and teal on our Mere and colourful woodland birds gathering at our Kingfisher and Ron Barker Hides. Learn more about the current highlights from our Guide in the Discovery Hide - every day between 12-3pm.

The colder months are also the perfect time of year to see the Icelandic whooper swans which migrate to Martin Mere every winter. To celebrate these beautiful swans coming to visit, we've got a number of swan-themed activities at the centre, including our swan pipe experience, daily swan feeds and a swan-themed discovery trail.

On the collection side of the centre we have a number of iconic wetland species including our cheeky Asian short-clawed otter family. Discover more about them during daily talks at 11.30am and 2.30pm and find out how WWT is working to save them and other wetland species. When you visit, you can hand-feed our characterful ducks, geese and swans or take a wintry walk amid stunning scenery.

And once your wildlife-watching is done, there's tasty fare aplenty in our cafe, with festive treats, winter warmers and a new breakfast menu. Our site has excellent access and full visitor centre facilities including a well-stocked gift shop – ideal for those with wildlife fans to buy for this Christmas!

For more information about winter at Martin Mere, please visit our website: wwt.org.uk/martin-mere

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

HELP US HELP YOU

STAY WELL THIS WINTER

NHS

West Lancashire

Clinical Commissioning Group

These local health services can help you if you feel unwell or have any health concerns over the Christmas and New Year period.

Pharmacy

Your local pharmacy can offer free, confidential and expert advice. They can also help you look after yourself and prepare for many common winter illnesses by advising you which medicines to keep in stock at home.

These are the pharmacy opening times over Christmas/New Year:

PHARMACIES	CHRISTMAS DAY	BOXING DAY	NEW YEAR'S DAY
Rowlands, Tarleton, PR4 6TU	10am - 1pm	10am - 1pm	CLOSED
Ormskirk Pharmacy, L39 2BY	10am - 1pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
O'Brien's Pharmacy, Burscough, L40 0SA	10am - 1pm	10am - 1pm	10am - 1pm
Rowlands, Skelmersdale, WN8 6UH	10am - 1pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
Asda Pharmacy, Skelmersdale, WN8 6LA	CLOSED	9am - 6pm	10am - 5pm
Morrisons Pharmacy, Ormskirk, L39 3RB	CLOSED	10am - 4pm	10am - 4pm
Trust Pharmacy, Hesketh Bank, PR4 6SN	CLOSED	CLOSED	10am - 1pm
Rowlands, Ormskirk, L39 1NL	CLOSED	10am - 1pm	CLOSED
Rufford Pharmacy, Rufford, L40 1SB	CLOSED	CLOSED	10am - 1pm
Boots, Ormskirk, L39 2AA	CLOSED	11am - 4pm	CLOSED

GP

As well as accessing your GP in the normal way over Christmas/New Year, you can still access a GP in the evening and at weekends, every day (except Christmas Day – 25 December 2018). This extended access service is offered from Sandy Lane Health Centre in Skelmersdale, Ormskirk Medical Centre and Burscough Health Centre. This is a pre-booked service for evenings and weekends only – just ring your GP practice to make an appointment in advance.

GP PRACTICE	CHRISTMAS DAY	BOXING DAY	NEW YEAR'S DAY
Sandy Lane Health Centre	CLOSED	10am - 2pm	CLOSED
Ormskirk Medical Practice	CLOSED	CLOSED	10am - 2pm
Burscough Health Centre	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED

If you need an appointment when your GP is closed, call freephone NHS 111 or visit your nearest walk-in centre.

Walk-in Centres

Opening times for the two walk-in centres will vary over the festive bank holidays.

WALK-IN CENTRES	NORMAL OPENING TIMES	CHRISTMAS DAY	BOXING DAY	NEW YEAR'S DAY
Ormskirk Hospital L39 2AZ	8am - 8pm everyday	9am - 5pm	8am - 8pm	8am - 8pm
The Concourse Skelmersdale WN8 6LJ	8am - 8pm everyday	10am - 2pm	8am - 8pm	8am - 8pm

The staff within these centres, can treat minor injuries and minor ailments. Please visit the centre that is most convenient for you. You will be seen by a clinician who will decide how urgent your case is and when you will be treated.

NHS 111

When you need medical help or advice fast, but it is not a 999 emergency, you can also call the NHS 111 service. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and calls are free from mobiles and landlines. You can access NHS 111 online by visiting www.111.nhs.uk

Dental

For emergency treatment when your dentist is closed, call 0300 1234 010.

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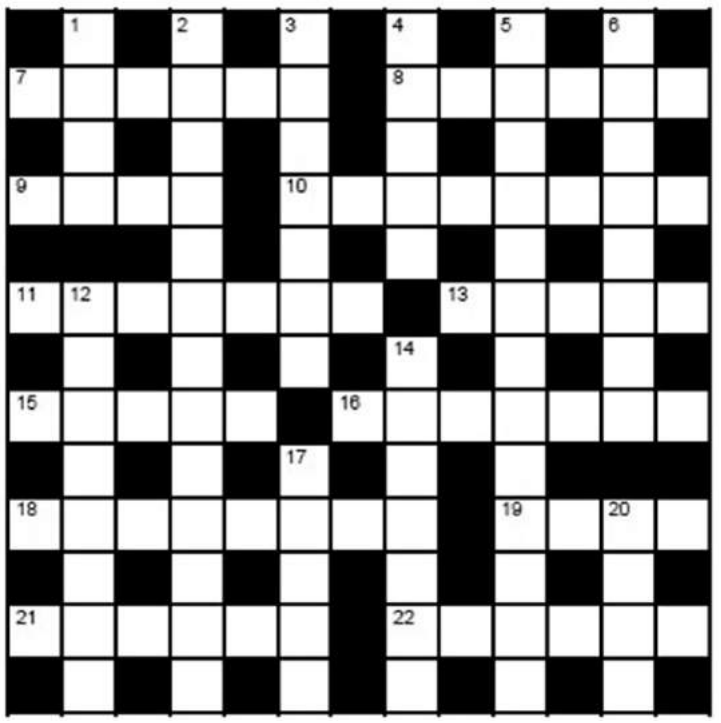

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Old age pension. 8. Cylinder. 9. Bite. 10. Elegant. 12. Pearl. 14. Snack. 16. Hot rods. 19. Swan. 20. Edifying. 22. Every which way.

Down: 1. Ally. 2. Casing. 3. Gelding. 4. Heart. 5. Usable. 6. Dog-tired. 11. Long wave. 13. Codicil. 15. Centre. 17. Rhythm. 18 Meows. 21. Neat.

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ACROSS

7. A person who behaves affectedly to impress others (6)
8. A permanent deviation in the direction of the gaze of one eye (6)
9. Repair, fix (4)
10. Draughts or winds typically encountered by moving aircraft (8)
11. The decaying flesh of dead animals (7)
13. Brilliant display or effect (5)
15. A sudden upsetting or surprising event or experience (5)
16. Commonest ice cream flavour (7)
18. Gave an account, written or oral, of an event (8)
19. A position in the hierarchy of the armed forces (4)
21. Opportune (6)
22. Room or large cupboard for storing food (6)

DOWN

1. Jab, prod (4)
2. Book or table listing standard numerical calculations presented formulaically (5, 8)
3. Person or thing that brings something into existence (7)
4. Take (a position of power or importance) illegally or by force (5)
5. Building where books can be read or borrowed free (6, 7)
6. A cocktail containing advocaat and lemonade (8)
12. Sporty, fit and active (8)
14. South African anti apartheid campaigner and politician who died in 2013 (7)
17. Remains (5)
20. Necessity, requirement (4)

Farmers warned about risks and consequences of pollution incidents

AN agricultural insurance expert is warning farmers about the risks of pollution, after official figures revealed 42 incidents occurred in the North West in the past decade.

Environmental Agency statistics obtained through a Freedom of Information request showed that almost one in ten waste and water pollution incidents in England took place in the region over a 10-year period.

Farm pollution incidents can have a devastating impact on wildlife, ecosystems and, in some cases, human health - silage effluent, for example, can be more than 200 times more toxic than untreated sewage if it finds its way into waterways.

Mick Hodgson, an account executive with Farmers & Mercantile insurance brokers, said he fears too many farmers are not aware of just how destructive farm pollution can be to the environment, or the severe penalties they face if prosecuted.

He said: "What many farmers don't realise is that the latest sentencing guidelines mean they could be slapped with unlimited fines, or up to five years in prison, if found responsible for a pollution breach," he said.

"Couple this with the fact that the Environment Agency is pushing for farmers who damage the environment to lose their government grants and you have a situation which many farmers simply could not recover from.

Mick Hodgson.

"In summary, farmers' businesses are being put in serious jeopardy because of carelessness. This is not a risk any farmer should be willing to take."

Hodgson warned that, whilst insurance may cover the cost of any clean-ups, it is not available to cover the cost of substantial fines imposed when farmers don't comply with the law.

"Agriculture remains one of the biggest sources of pollution incidents, with the Environment Agency branding it 'a slow-motion environmental catastrophe'," he said.

"This is unsurprising, considering farmers are responsible for three-quarters of the land in England, but much can be done to mitigate the risks.

"First of all, farmers should ensure their knowledge of environmental legislation is up-to-date and that they closely follow guidance from the Environmental Agency.

"Risk assessments should be conducted, such as identifying low-lying areas and waterways vulnerable to effluent run-off, and checks should be routinely carried out, from ensuring silage clamps and slurry containers are sound and secure to examining nearby waterways for signs of pollution.

"Adverse weather should be also taken into account, as heavy rainfall can increase the chance of toxic run-off. Contingency plans should be put in place, in preparation for every eventuality, and all workers should be made aware of these.

"If there is a pollution incident, suspected or confirmed, the Environmental Agency should be contacted immediately, followed by the farmer's insurance company. It is worth bearing in mind that, as part of its crackdown on offenders, the agency is calling for incentives to be introduced for farmers who maintain a good environmental track record. So, prevention not only provides peace of mind but may in the future reap benefits, if the Environment Agency realises its objectives to protect the environment for future generations."

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Surely I can't be the only one who likes Brussels sprouts?

IT has only just dawned on me that this will be my last *Dog* before Christmas so can I take this opportunity of wishing all of you who read this column regularly a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

And I'll refrain from commenting on Brexit (though it does seem crazy to me that so many folk still want us to remain in an officious and bullying organisation which won't let you get out of it in any sensible manner). But enough of that.

I have always enjoyed Christmas. As a child my late brother George and I woke on Christmas morning to find Santa had delivered a pillowcase each, filled with goodies and perhaps a small gift. We had to wait until after Christmas lunch for our 'big' presents under the tree - but it was worth it - the delicious aroma of goose roasting in the oven and Christmas pud steaming made the morning of anticipation.

We looked forward to filling our small tums with overly-large portions of goose, mash and roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts et al., and of course the steaming pud with a white sauce which was a bit of a mystery as to exactly what it was.

The amazing thing was that by teatime we were again capable of eating various cold meats and salad, and the mandatory cream cakes before the highlight of mum opening what she called 'The Little House'. This was actually a model village store, called *Bunny's* if I remember rightly, complete with cotton wool snow, which housed small gifts for everyone.

At the time I was glad that our Christmas was purely a family affair, but of course the problem with that is that the 'family' decreases through anno domini year on year. And that too was OK so long as both our parents were alive. After they had gone, George and I continued with most of the traditions - minus the pillowcases and the Little House (which eventually fell to bits).

For the past five years though it has been just Tina, Cinders and me - and the dogs have a lamentably small regard for traditions. Christmas for them means food, food and more food.

Still, I continue with having a small Christmas tree and we have our Christmas lunch and tea sitting at (or under) a dining table under candlelight and a 'real' fire. And I persist in a new tradition (introduced after my dad died) of having a good-quality roasted duck in lieu of the goose for lunch on Christmas Day, and turkey in some form or other on Boxing Day. In the family Christmas past that meant a proper, whole turkey, but now such a thing would be a gastronomic impossibility.

As an aside, why is it that sprouts are such a national joke? This seemingly unloved vegetable is surely the best thing to come out of Brussels, certainly in recent years. And if they are indeed such an awful thing, how come they are available in supermarkets more or less all year? They wouldn't be there if it was only me buying the things.

At the moment I just do not feel 'Christmassy.' Hopefully when I get my tree up and working, this will change. I suppose that now that I and the dogs are home alone, Christmas for me has ceased totally to be about what presents I may get, and the number of people I want to buy presents for is pitiably low.

Which should mean that I think about what is termed 'the true meaning of Christmas' more than I did in the past. I reckon that the true meaning is 'Hope' and I suppose that as I get older it becomes rather more urgent that the things I hope for should come to pass sooner rather than later.

So, I really do hope that the things you wish for come true - starting with a truly wonderful Christmas Day.

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Leaving was never going to be easy but EU have a lot to lose too

THIS country belongs to us all right now but only a few get to vote on a massive deal change. I'm most infuriated to hear why I voted and how I got it all wrong.

I certainly knew when I voted that Europe would not make leaving easy (about the only truth they forgot to lie about!) but the EU have a lot to lose too (no deal is the best leverage we have to get a deal).

The Conservatives insulted Labour saying their idea of leaving wasn't 'leaving' but now we are told Labour's deal would be too good to be true.

The public and even most politicians didn't negotiate or hear of the deal done until the last minute. Then we have to pay for it, have no right to free trade, laws and power within EU, or the ability to leave unless we are allowed by 27 countries.

I don't blame Mrs May for not achieving the unachievable. I blame her for putting ten times the homeless people on our streets, allowing working families to need foodbanks, single parents to only see their kids when they are asleep, allowing tax loopholes for the elite whilst draining money from our schools and our emergency services and putting the NHS at breaking point.

I doubt she ever stood a chance of getting a good EU deal but running down the wrong route and refusing to turn back is not a strength or loyalty just a delay and pressure.

For a long time I have said it's a crime to democracy to have another people's vote but the next step is important to us all. Is it No Deal or go back?

Personally I say take the risk. There is a 'soft' border between Spain and Gibraltar. The EU want freedom of movement for their people so may allow it to us.

After the short-term risk we could make our own laws and money speaks when it comes to trading deals in the EU and elsewhere. We may even become increasingly self-sufficient.

Others may have good arguments and I'm willing to listen and go with the democratic vote.

I admit I would like to hear a debate between Corbyn and Mrs May with no personal insults or party politics, just respect and honest explanations. Could that be achieving the unachievable?

Let's hope by next week some answers/actions are made and Brexit has moved on and my letter is last week's news.

It could be that now we know Theresa May was so clever as to plan her strategy from the beginning. She gave us a unity no other deal could, 'leavers' and 'remainer's all united.

Who thought a deal could do that?

Janet Ingman, by email.

New local plan shows no thought for infrastructure or residents of borough

RE: The letter by Councillor Gail Hodson ('Forward-thinking plan will bring jobs and investment' - Letters, December 12).

How hypocritical of a councillor who doesn't live in any of the areas affected by the new local plan to write such a letter.

It is definitely a case of 'it isn't on my doorstep so go ahead as it won't affect me'.

I wonder how you would feel about the plan if the Labour plan was to build on countryside where you live?

Extensive research? I think not. Nothing in the new plan has been researched.

Infrastructure hasn't been thought through. Student numbers have decreased and yet a 1,000-bed student accommodation is in the plan, once again using our Green Belt.

If this was required, which it isn't, it should be built on a brownfield site outside of Ormskirk.

Sefton do not require our land, their plan has covered their needs.

I am not sure what the Labour Party are thinking. They certainly aren't working for the good of West Lancashire residents.

S.W. by email.

Asbestos 'concerns' have got me worried

THE concerns about asbestos in Eskdale (Champion, December 12) have me worried.

I bought my maisonette 16 years ago and, shortly after, asked the council's housing department whether asbestos had been used in constructing the buildings on the estate.

The council officer assured me very firmly that there had not.

Did she lie to me?

I have since done a lot of DIY work to refurbish my home and do not like the thought that I may have been putting myself at risk on the basis of false information.

A friend of my mother's recently died of asbestosis. It was a grim experience.

Adrian Tayler,
Tanhouse, Skelmersdale.

PICTURE of the week

Angling coach Kevin Hall checks out the country's only indoor fishery, unique because it is available all year round for users of the facilities based at AppleCast, Newburgh. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Marie Curie Support Line is available over Christmas period

NO matter the time of year, spending time with your family and loved ones is always important - even more so over the Christmas period.

This year, more than one million people in the UK are expected to be supporting a loved one who has a terminal illness, during what could be their last Christmas together.

Caring for a loved one can be a rewarding experience but many of your readers will also feel overwhelmed and isolated. They may also be facing the challenge of trying to make Christmas a magical, happy time for young children while also providing care for their husband, wife, mother or father.

That's why we want people to know that the Marie Curie support line is available for families who don't know where to turn and need extra support this Christmas.

Marie Curie's helpline provides free and confidential emotional support about any aspect of terminal illness, as well as offering help with bereavement.

If your readers are in need of support then Marie Curie is here for them. Please let them know they can contact us, for free, on 0800 090 2309.

Support Line open hours are: December 22 and 23 (11am to 5pm); December 24 (10am to 4pm); December 25 and 26 (10am to 2pm); December 27 and 28 (8am to 6pm); December 29 and 30 (11am to 5pm); December 31 (10am to 4pm); and January 1 (10am to 2pm).

Additionally, our trained Support Line Officers are also on hand via our online chat service at mariecurie.org.uk/support.

Morven Masterton, head of information and support, Marie Curie.

Festive season tips for asthma sufferers

CHRISTMAS should be a time of good Cheer, relaxation and celebration, but for many people with asthma, the festive season can be a testing time.

New analysis from Asthma UK shows that an estimated 300,000 people have had an asthma attack over the Christmas period.

Festive triggers, including Christmas trees, yuletide stress, party foods such as pigs in blankets and festive tipples, could be to blame for some people.

People with asthma have sensitive airways. When they come into contact with triggers such as stress, sulphites found in wine and processed meat such as pigs in blankets, and mould found on Christmas trees, it causes their airways to become more inflamed and tighter, causing coughing, wheezing and leaving them struggling to breathe.

Winter can be a particularly problematic time for people with asthma as colds and flu and cold air are also top asthma triggers. That's why at Asthma UK, we are offering simple hints and tips so the 5.4 million with asthma can stay well and enjoy the Christmas season. If you have asthma we advise you to:

- Take your preventer inhaler (usually brown) as prescribed. This builds up protection over time and means you're less likely to have an asthma attack if you come into contact with a trigger.
- Carry your reliever inhaler (usually blue) at all times.
- Watch out for danger signs and get urgent medical help if your asthma is getting worse such as needing to use your blue reliever inhaler three or more times each week

We hope that following these tips and getting more information at www.asthma.org.uk/winter-triggers will ensure everyone with asthma can stay well and enjoy the festive season.

Dr Andy Whittamore,
Clinical Lead, Asthma UK.

Please show some respect for all our hard-working shop staff at this busy time

I WOULD like to wish your readers a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

For many this is always an exciting time, but we know it can be frantic trying to get everything ready for the big day.

I want to gently remind your readers to remember that shopworkers are people as well.

They will be working really hard to make your shopping experience as stress-free and enjoyable as possible.

A recent Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw) survey shows that every minute of every day another shopworker is verbally abused, threatened with violence or physically attacked.

Shopworkers tell us that incidents are more frequent throughout the Christmas and New Year period when shops are busier, customers can be stressed and are more likely to take out their frustration on staff.

Talking to our members who work in retail, I know that verbal abuse cuts deep. Many will go home after a shift upset about an unpleasant incident that took place at work that day and worried that it will happen to them again.

That is why Usdaw is running a Respect for Shopworkers campaign, asking customers to 'Keep your Cool at Christmas'.

It's a simple message, but remembering that shopworkers are working extra hard at this time and treating them with respect will mean that everyone can have a happier Christmas.

Paddy Lillis,
General Secretary, Usdaw.

MP backs charity's campaign for electric checks for over-65s

Report by **Kenny Parker**

ROSIE Cooper is backing a campaign calling on people to check the electrical safety of older family members or neighbours,

The Safer Over 65 campaign is led by charity Electrical Safety First which has developed a range of tools and guides to help keep older people safe at home.

The charity says that with more than half of all domestic fires arising from electricity - and older people being disproportionately affected - this is the time of year we particularly need to keep an eye on older friends and relatives.

West Lancs MP Ms Cooper said: "Many older people worry about winter heating bills, often using portable heaters and electric blankets to cut costs, but these appliances are the cause of a number of house fires, mainly through misuse.

"And with most older people being owner-occupiers, they tend to live in homes which haven't had an electrical safety check for many years and often lack important electrical safety features. Today, we are sadly also seeing a significant increase in age-related illnesses such as dementia, making electrical safety even more of an imperative."

Rosie Cooper and TV chef Rosemary Shrager supporting the Safer Over 65 campaign.

Electrical Safety First says that most electrical fires are caused by simple mistakes that can easily be avoided. The charity's top tips for using portable heaters safely are as follows:

- Place the heater on a level surface, well away from anything that could knock it over.
- Make sure the heater is at least a metre away from combustible materials, such as paper, furniture or curtains. Never use it to dry clothes!
- Never leave a heater unattended when in use, or while sleeping.
- Never power a heater from an extension lead – they can easily be overloaded and cause fires and trailing leads can cause slips and trips.
- Make sure heaters are regularly inspected for damage and deterioration. If it isn't in good condition, don't use it!
- Avoid second-hand heaters - buy from recognised and reputable manufacturers and retailers.

For more detailed help, including an app which allows you to do a rapid visual electrical safety check of a home, plus a range of safety guides, visit www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/olderpeople.

Stormy weather can't dampen spirits at business centre Christmas lights switch-on

STORMY weather didn't deter management and staff at the Martland Mill business centre, Burscough when they held their annual Christmas lights switch-on.

Members of the local community were invited along to share mince pies, sparkling wine and chocolates and a good time was had by all - despite the inclement weather.

Sue Smith, lead receptionist at the Mart Lane centre, which is home to independent businesses, said: "Despite torrential rain and high winds everybody had a fabulous time. It was a great atmosphere and a brilliant start to the Christmas Festivities."

The lights were switched on by the centre's two newest tenants - web designer Rich Flynn of Blue Digital and Tracey Goodwin of Tracey Goodwin Counselling Services.

All welcome to church's carols by candlelight service

THE annual carol service at Christ Church, Parbold, featuring community and congregational choirs, will take place on Sunday, December 23 starting at 6pm.

A spokesperson for the church said: "Join us in our beautiful candlelit church to enjoy a traditional service of lessons and carols. This is a part community choir and part congregational service that will last about an hour and everyone is most welcome."

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Tribute to Queen of Soul

A NEW concert show, Respect to Aretha is coming to The Atkinson on Thursday, January 31 at 8pm.

Life-long Aretha Franklin fan and power-house vocalist, Letitia George stars in this dedication to the Queen of Soul.

Aretha Franklin's extraordinary career as a singer and songwriter spanned more than 60 years. She rose from church gospel singer to international stardom at a young age and is widely seen as the finest female soul singer of our time. Her talent has always been unequalled.

Massive hits including: A Natural Woman, Say A Little Prayer, Chain Of Fools, Until You Come Back To Me, Think, I Never Love A Man, and of course Respect, will ensure that Aretha's legacy will continue forever.

Life-long Aretha Franklin fan and power-house vocalist, Letitia George, rose to fame after featuring on series 4 of BBC 1's The Voice UK, where she became a member of Team Ricky and soared her way through to the knockout rounds.

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Panto 'rattles along at a quick pace and offers plenty to keep families entertained'

Review by **Henry James**

A scene from Beauty and the Beast

SAM Kane and Imagine Theatre are back at Southport Theatre to present this year's panto – Beauty and the Beast.

This is the second successive year for Sam Kane in the venue's festive show. Jason Marc-Williams as Dame Kimmy Shoo and Alistair Barron (Selfie Simon) are both back for a third year. Toni Howard played Cinderella in 2017 and is also back this year as Belle.

The fact these performers have appeared together before shows as this is a tight production, which rattles along at a quick pace.

The show has all the elements you would expect from a pantomime and they include: the ghost scene; a kitchen scene where the Dame and Selfie Simon find themselves covered in soapsuds; and younger members of the audience performing on stage.

It is surprising to see Kane playing the bad character Eugene, but after watching his performance, I think he is obviously enjoying the part.

Joshua Prince plays the Beast/Prince and his costume and his movements as the Beast are impressive. Expect to see a clever special effect toward the end of the show. I won't say anymore, but I could hear some youngsters near me asking their parents, "how do they do that?"

Wordplay and puns normally play a huge part of panto, and this is shown in this production. The jokes are mainly aimed at the younger audience. Younger members of the audience are called on to stage to perform a tongue twister as well. On the night I went, one of the kids nearly stole the show!

There are some good musical numbers too and the young and old ensemble move well to the music.

There is plenty here to keep families entertained during the festive period. 8/10

Show is a 'very funny night out'

Review by **Pete Rimmer**

A WALK from the station passing the Liverpool Christmas markets and the shops full of Festive Spirit has to put you in the mood for a retelling of A Christmas Carol being performed at the Liverpool Playhouse.

Production company Spymonkey are the ones to add a new twist to a very old story, most readers will be aware of the plot of Scrooge being visited by many ghosts to help turn his rather miserable life into one of joy.

It's of course been on TV, film, radio and many times on stage so how do you put a new slant on a very old story?

Well first you bring on the author Charles Dickens, played by the extremely funny Aitor Basauri setting the scene with a touch of magic and comedy.

So the show begins as expected in Scrooge's office with only three other actors, Toby Park, Petra Massey and Sophie Russell all playing what seems dozens of parts each, with changes of scene, costume and character done at breakneck speed.

Without giving too much away the sight of seeing the ghost of Christmas Present, in a green robe and gliding into the room on a hover board has to be just one of the highlights of the superb show.

With plenty of up to date jokes and banter it's very silly but great fun with everything from Mr Fezziwig being played as Cuban drug lord to the bazaar sight of Torvill and Dean's Bolero performed with only one dancer and a vacuum cleaner!

A scene from A Christmas Carol. Photograph by Johan Persson

All the actors sing well and the combined combination of vaudeville, slapstick comedy, musical numbers and Ross Hughes leading an exceptional onstage band make this a very funny night out.

Well worth a visit, it's on till January 12.

10 /10

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4pm on Thursday 20th December 2018

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DINING TABLE Extending with 6 chairs & 2 cravers dark wood with matching display unit £300 07756229527

DINING TABLE Glass dining table 6 Leather chairs. Metal Frame and matching place settings £80 01704211459

3PIECE SUITE 2 Chairs 2 Seater Seatee Cream Material with Brown Leather Very Good Condition £275 01704 211459

COFFEE TABLES 3 piece coffee table set wood (inlay) L24" W17" H20" Good condition £15 ono 01704 565746

WARDROBE Large in white 3 sliding doors 1 door full mirror flat pack as new £250 01704549706

SMALL VINTAGE coffee table, 80s, Italian marble top, gilt legs, 30x17", height 16", £40 ono 0151 5234490

SINGLE INFLATABLE Bed £10. Small Mahogany table good condition. £8. Mirror 6' tall 1' wide £10 07934 496817

MIRROR WARDROBES x 4, size approx 72" by 36". Top quality and condition. With tracks. £100 0151 9289271

LARGE DINING room suite, 6 chairs plus matching serving table, all wood, new, accept £250 ovno 0151 9280992

HOOVER FRIDGE Freezer, very good condition. Needs new home as not used any more 01695 573853

GLASS CABINET dark mahogany, interior shelf and interior light, double glass doors, £25 ono 07763 675882

CHINESE RUG Red and Beige, excellent condition £75. Hall carpet Blue and Pink as new £40 01704 578671

UNDERBED STORAGE BNIB Unassembled Pine under bed storage drawer for single bed £50 collect Crosby 07769181943

ITALIAN LEATHER three piece suite in dark maroon excellent quality and condition may deliver £450 ono 01515263851

TV STAND Black glass and chrome 3 shelves 44cms x 112 £30 Ono evenings 07870 288020

HOUSE AND HOME

FRIDGE Fridge (type that can fit under a work surface). Good working order £10. Pick up in Tarleton. 07919532883

CORNER UNIT Mahagony corner unit with lighting. Super condition £30. Pick up near Tarleton. 07919532883

BRASS BOX Beautiful antique style small brass box, looks super by a fireplace for papers etc. £15 07919532883

FOR SALE Beko washing machine 6kg 1200 spin. Perfect working order VGC £50. Must collect 01704628016

TABLE/TROLLEY Small, oak, barley twist legs, drawer, on castors, very useful. £35 could help with delivery 0151 9281955

CHRISTMAS TREE 7ft Artificial frosted green tree with real pine cones and off season storage bag £50 07525910932

LEATHER SETTEE seats 3-4. Excellent condition sale due to house move £300 01704 807548

STANDARD LAMPSHADE Large,vintage, long fringed dusky pink Burscough £10 01704 893195

BEDROOM SET large 4 door wardrobe bedside cabinets dressing table and bed with headboard selling due to change decor£95 07741206449

KITCHEN CABINETS oak raised/panel, floor standing 3-drawer (60cm wide), two with doors, plus two doors and drawer fronts 40cm wide £25 01695424797

KITCHEN CABINET white wall cabinet with shelf and silver handle 70cm high x 50cm wide, excellent condition £20. 01695424797

KITCHEN CABINET white under worktop cabinet with silver handle, on legs with shelf, 70cm tall x 30cm wide, excellent condition £15. 01695424797

COFFEE TABLE Rectangular glass topped with antique brass effect legs ex Marks and Spencer excellent condition £75 07751924207

FAN HEATER Compact 2 kW fan heater. Two variable control heat settings and cool. Quiet operation. As new £20. 01704 546978

SOFA & CHAIR Matching Sofa & rotating Bucket chair with half moon footrest. Black & grey. 4 months old. Paid £1000. Asking £500. ono 01519036538

TV STAND Black Glass Chrome Legs John Lewis 2 Shelves L42" W18" H21" Model 1050/3BB Max W 120kg £20 ONO 01704 565746

MATCHING SOFAS Two Vale Capri 2 seater sofas, terracotta fabric. Hand built in solid beech. Excellent condition, unmarked. £150 each 07759374064

WHITE TABLECLOTHS 84x96 hotel quality used once for a wedding. Clean like new condition ideal for Christmas 8 available £8 each 07715498629

HOUSE AND HOME

TOY CHEST White wooden with side metal handles. Flower pattern painted on top and front. H18 W 21 D15 inches VGC £28 01704560150

PAIR TABLES Round chipboard tables matched pair Height 62 x 50 cm diameter. Good overall condition. May deliver £18 01704560150

DINING CHAIRS Set 6 dark wood green padded stylish chairs in good order. 2 carver type, 4 no arms. £50 ono Skelmersdale 07973 303943

WASHING MACHINE Samsung 8kg Eco Bubble WW80J6410. 2 years old. Perfect working order. Needs solid floor £100 01695 577938

PADDED THROW Double size black white reversible Satin cotton corded unused cost £120 in Dunelm. First to see will buy £50. 01515316483/ 07956 067026

GAS COOKER White gas hob electric oven good clean condition £45. Kingsize throw and 2 pillow shams brown and cream GCD £5 07934 496817

DOUBLE OVEN Miele H213 Two grills, fan assisted, white. Kitchen refit forces sale. VGC. See it working. Mawdesley. £75 01704 821228

SLEEPING BAGS 2 traditional type, king size. Perfect condition, ideal for Christmas guests. Can be zipped together for two people. £18 for both 01695 322752

COOL BOX Thermos cool box. Clean, excellent condition. Keep your wine cool over Christmas when the fridge is full. £4 01695 322752

CHRISTMAS TREE Artificial tree, bought from John Lewis approx 5 ft tall, comes apart for easy storage bargain only £50 07941082422

CHRISTMAS TREE Bought from John Lewis approx 5ft tall, very realistic looking breaks down for easy storage bargain 07941082422

TWO SETTEES 2 settees - grey fabric and black faux leather material - scatter cushion back - very good condition - £200 the pair 07443482818

FOR SALE Harpers memory foam double bed with headboard. Bought September. Used once. Padded headboard. £150 ono 01704628016

TEA TROLLEY wooden, sturdy, two tier, on castors for ease of movement. Very useful, especially at Christmas. £30 Could help with delivery 0151 9281955

HAIR CLIPPERS Vidal Sassoon Max cordless hair clippers with comb attachments for different lengths. Ceramic blades, charger and box. £15 0794 1110621

HAIRSTRAIGHTENERS NEW In Box,with BRUSH,easy to use, heats up quickly Swivel cord,240v,RRp£45, Bargain priced £15. 07980 162415

BLACKOUT ROLLERBLIND JOHN LEWIS,brand new in box-,Grey flowered pattern,152cmx-160cm,RRP£45, Bargain £10. 07980 162415

SOFA Brown fabric 2 seater sofa in excellent clean condition 6ft 6" X 3ft wide with matching footstool - BARGAIN £50 07761491656

DOUBLE BED Good quality Brown faux leather bed frame,with very comfy pocket spring mattress, hardly used,-like new condition.£150 ono 07759374064

INLAID TABLE Italian style lovely pedestal mahogany 4ft circular table which extends for dining. (Plus four gold velvet covered chairs). Hightown £150 01519292025

PORCELAIN TILES Stylish grey. Koan Waves from La Fabbrica. 26 brand new tiles 600mmX300mm (2'X1') + some large offcuts. £100. 01695 578368

INTERIOR DOOR plastic wrapped, smooth surface, white high gloss, reassuringly heavy, 4 hinges included. 67"x24"x3/4" (174cmX60cmX2cm). Excellent condition. £15. 01695 578368

HOUSE AND HOME

STANDARD FLOOR lamp in mahogany wood traditional style with lined cream light shade in perfect condition from John Lewis may deliver £90ono 01515263851

WOODEN CANDLESTICK Two new solid wood candlesticks, oak colour, 11" in Height Look nice on table or fireplace at Christmas. Two £6 07387439004

OAK WARDROBE Original 1920's Oak Hall Wardrobe. External carving & internal mirror & shelf. H=181cm, W=78cm & D=40cm. Beautiful Condition. Collected £125. Delivered £135. 07747 616679

MISC

IMPERIAL PORTABLE Typewriter in case £7 Ormskirk 07553 928344

GARAGE FULL Books, shoes, clothes, Bric Brac, Miscellaneous. Offers 01704 643309

WW2 GAS Mask ARP Tin Container Red bargain £50 07773242918

QUALITY DARTBOARD and darts used afew times as used on tele bargain £15 07773242918

PHIL THOMPSON hardback book pinocchio signed by phil inside bargain £10 07773242918

FIREWOOD Large bag of dry ready chopped firewood for open fires, log burners etc. £10.00 01704 546978

GIRLS PADDED BLUE PARKA COAT new with tags from kids cavern designer cost £110 bargain £35 age 5 07518929646

GIRLS FUR COAT and leggings new with tags pink age 5 and age 2 from kids cavern cost £114 bargain £30 07518929646

GIRLS DESIGNER RAINCOAT and hat new with tags age 4 with lining from kids cavern cost £59 bargain £20 07518929646

PARTY FACE MASK A large impressive peacock feather fancy dress party mask used once. £10 01704560150

WOODEN BIRDSTAND 5 foot high, stained Red £10. Fireside wood box metal. Brass coloured round with lid £8 0151 2811535

CROWN GREEN Bowls 2 sets £40 each. Corby Trouser Press £45. Assorted Golf clubs and bag £20 01704 545617

BANJO 5 string Bluegrass maple body with rose wood finger board "G" tuning £30 01704 892871

LADIES BOOTS 2 pair knee-high, size 7 new un-worn, one pair black, one pair brown, both perfect originally £80+, £20each 01695424797

THROWOVER BEAUTIFUL woven colourful snowy evening Christmas homecoming scene 68" by 50" immaculate, has to be seen £30 07704 785755

GIRLS LADIES DESIGNER GREEN LEATHER jacket cost £128 new with tags size 8 bargain £25 no offers 1st to see will buy 07518929646

JOHN LEWIS Christmas tree shaped dish. Brand new in box. 12" x 10" at widest points 2" deep. Modern design. £7. 07815 168876

CHRISTMAS TREE 7ft X 4ft Realistic heavy quality blue green with cones. Easily assembled all colour coded metal arms. Hightown £50. 01519292025

SAT NAV tom tom start,with windscreen holder,charging lead that plugs in 12v socket,in original box,instructions,collect in ormskirk,£20 07809255966

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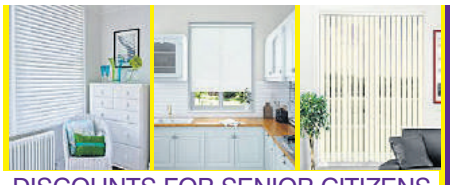
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MISC

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS Gold baulbles, me to you teddies, tinsel, large silver bells, hanging fabric advent calendar, and more. The lot. £8.00 07387439004

PERFUME Killer Queen Katy Perry Own The Throne 50ml Eau De Parfum spray - Brand new Sealed Box. Ideal Xmas Present. £10 01704 569028

GOLD BRACELET hallmarked 9ct thick solid yellow gold 8 inches 56 grams, mans or ladies, would make very nice present £1400 01704831977

CHRISTMAS TREE 6' Green £35ono. Ladies Bike £65ono. Lambretta Service Handbook £25 Hornby Instruction Manual £15. 1950s Standard Lamp £40. Jetwash £35 07970 455075

BASIN TAPS gold boxed £25. Bodyfit exercise bike £35ovno. Balck & Decker hedge cutters good condition £20. Heritage gold shower/bath mixer & basin-taps £100ovno 07933 578795

COLLECTIBLE DOLL Claudia Winter Porcelain girl doll, from the Hamilton collection (341C), lovely condition. red coat and muffler nice condition. Only £10.00 07387439004

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SELF PROPELLED wheelchair for sale, usual refinements £50 01695 731794

WALKER MOBILITY in very good condition has bag for storage and safety brakes£20 07741206449

TRANSIT WHEELCHAIR solid tyres, very comfortable, easily folds for transport, can deliver £55 07845529249

SELF-PROPELLED wheelchair, very good condition, all usual features, can deliver £65 Southport 214498

LIGHTWEIGHT ADULT wheelchair very good condition, as new, solid tyres, folding, can deliver £65 07879087669

4 WHEELED mobility walker with seat, backrest and lockable hand brakes, can deliver £40 Southport 214498

3 WHEELED mobility walker with lockable handbrakes, adjustable height, can deliver £30 07845529249

WALKING CANE Beautiful wooden carved walking cane, depicting a crocodile to full length of cane, made in Australia bargain only £30 07941082422

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MCLAREN BUGGY Cath Kidson spray floral pattern with foot muff good condition £120 01704 212232

WOODEN COT Mothercare Cot, Wooden Natural Beech, Drop-side, Protective Teething Rails, 2 Mattress Positions, Excellent Conditions, £40 07846 182639

BUGABOO DONKEY pram for sale in excellent condition, can be used as a twin pram or single with side shopping basket. £500. 07388047817

MACLAREN PUSHCHAIR Top Quality Maclaren Techno XT Pushchair, Black, With Rain Cover, Universal Footmuff, With Sunshine Umbrella, Excellent Condition, £90 07846 182639

MOTORING

PUNTO TYRE Fiat Punto Grande steel wheel with 175/65 R15 radial tyre very little used.£50 07968914294

BRAKE DISCS 2 Quinton Hazell front brake discs BDC 3185 to fit Vauxhall Chevette 1978-1984.£25 each. 07968914294

VW GOLF 2005 Front Bumper £75. Metal Wheels and tyres, tyres like new £100 07977 260777

RING SPANNERS King Dick Sizes noW212. 3/4" x 7/8" W, no214 7/8" x 1" w. Hot forged Chrome Vanadium steel. £19 pair 01704 874084

AUDI ROOFBARS Audi Q5/SQ5 Roofbars, Original Audi Equipment brand, For 2009 models onwards, Carry Bag & Key Included, Excellent Condition, Never Used £50 0787 2605731

PETS

DOG CAGE 30x21x19 very good condition 07425 011348

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DOG CRATE heavy gauge wire, 80cm wide, 120cm long, 86cm high, good condition £40 07522 189440

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COLLECTABLE BEAR Canterbury with original tags with moving limbs, 37 inch high excellent condition £30 07756229527

PICTIONARY board game. As new condition. Some marks on box lid. Great game to play at Christmas! £7 07815 168876

DOLLS Wooden Furniture, Barbie 4 poster bed, wardrobe full mirror dressing table £40 07976 600836

CHILDS TRAMPOLINE 2'8 square, navy/orange, front hand rail suit 3-8 year old, good condition £12 07709 226130

AIR HOCKEY Table £15 ono. Brio Wooden Train Set, lots of extras £40 ono. Lots of Lego pieces £15 ono. 0151 2840476

ROLLER SKATES No Fear size 4 in line skates black and grey, boxed and cheap. £10 07387439004

CHILDRENS BOOKS Nearly new most of them, around 40 books all well known. £10.00 The lot. 0151 9246393

SNOOKER TABLE 6'x3' hardly used with 2 cues full set of balls scorecard & triangle buyer collects £10 07709523939

DOCTORS COAT New Doctors Coat with stethoscope and face mask, age 3-6 years, from Early Learning Centre £10 07867 545058

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SILVER CROSS Dolls pram excellent condition, navy/white, matching Sun canopy, Coach Bag, Pram set £200 07599 471640

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CHILDS GUITAR Multi functional guitar with 5 different types of music. Reggie, Electro, R&B, etc.Suit age 4+,Ideal gift as new uses 2 batteries Buyer collects £15 01695573147

COLLECTIBLE DOLL Claudia Winter Porcelain girl doll, from the Hamilton collection (341C), lovely condition. red coat and muffler lovely condition. Only £10.00 07387439004

CHILDS GAMETABLE Multi play free game standing table. Football, Pool, Push hockey, Basket ball. Measurement to nearest inch H30, L34, D23.Can be dismantled.Good condition, Buyer collects, £35 01695 573147

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CORFIELD ANNA (ANNIE)

Anna's family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, cards and support shown to them during their recent sad loss of a very much loved Mum, Nana and Great Grandma. Also for all the donations received for Macmillan Cancer Support and Elm House Nursing Home. They would also like to thank Heather, Becky and all the staff at Elm House for their loving care and support. Thanks also to the Rev. Rebecca Clarke for her kind words of comfort and ministrations and Howard's Funeral Directors for their help and dignified funeral arrangements.

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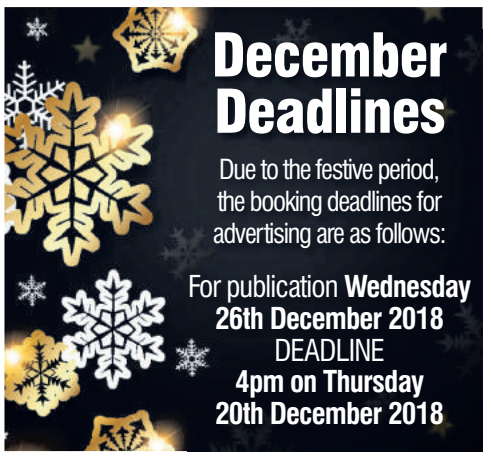
December Deadlines
Due to the festive period, the booking deadlines for advertising are as follows:
For publication Wednesday 26th December 2018
DEADLINE
4pm on Thursday 20th December 2018

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01704 892191

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Announcements

Births · Deaths · Marriages · Engagements · Congratulations · In Memorium · Anniversaries

Call the Classified Sales Team on **01704 392392**
or check-out our website **www.champnews.com**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DWAN MICHAEL

The Family of the late Michael Dwan would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their sympathy cards, messages of condolence and donations for Queenscourt Hospice, received during their recent sad loss. Thanks also to Father John for his kind words of comfort and to Lisa Hunter and the Team at MLS for the dignified funeral arrangements.

CROPPER JEAN

John and his family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy and support, cards and generous donations at this sad time.

Thank you to the Rev. Rebecca Clarke for the lovely service and to Neal Buckley and staff for dignified funeral arrangements.

GOUDIE ELIZABETH (BETTY)

Sandra, Keith & Neil would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for all the sympathy cards, messages of condolence and donations for Alzhimers society and Zoes Place received during their recent sad loss of a much loved Mum, Mother in law, Nana, and Great Grandmother. Special thanks to the nursing staff at Springfield Court Nursing Home for the care and attention given to Betty, Rev. Judith Ball for her kind words of comfort, The Saracens Head for the perfect food and service, and to Lisa Hunter and the Team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors, for their dignified funeral arrangements.

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

RYAN JAMES LAWRENCE (JIMMY)

21st December

Your second birthday since you passed

Remembering you at this special time of year and always.

From your loving Wife Teresa, Your Sons, Daughters, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

Always in our hearts

xxxx

BALL COLIN GEOFFREY

Your Birthday in Heaven

17th December

Your Birthday's here but you aren't
We'd send a gift but know we can't
So we'll make a wish upon a star
To carry our love to where you are

Still loved, still missed and very dear

Deborah, Jasmine and Elliott

XXX

WILLIAMS JILL (NEE BENNETT)

22nd December

Loving birthday memories of a dear Daughter.
Mum, Sister and Auntie.
No card to send no present to give,
Just a place in our hearts
for as long as we live,
Our hearts still ache as we whisper low,
Happy Birthday Jill,
We miss you so.
Loving you always.
Mum, David, Nigel, Julie and Ian and Families
xxxxx

Want to place a family announcement?
Visit **champnews.com**

DEATHS

CLEGG SUSAN (SUE)

Passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday 12th December 2018 surrounded by all her loving family aged 71 years of Southport

Beloved Wife of Terry, Loving Mum of Angela, Michael, Diane and Partner Carl. Grandma to Daniel and Partner Kirsty, Leo and Charlie. Beloved Sister to Philip, Maureen, Alan and the late Christine. Beloved Sister in law to Pat and David, Marilyn and Alan, Derek, Julie and Janet. Mother in law to Colin, Aunty Sue to all her Nephews and Nieces, Loved and Missed by all her Family and Friends. Funeral Service at Emmanuel Church, Southport on Thursday 20th December 2018 at 11.30 am followed by Interment at Duke Street Cemetery, the family have requested that bright colours be worn when attending Sue's funeral. Family flowers only please by request, but donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice.

Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton. Tel: 01695 424888.

BUTLER TONY

Passed away peacefully 6th December 2018 after a short illness aged 84 years

Dearly loved Husband, Father and Grandfather to Sheila, Paul, Jo, Aimee, Jack and Alfie. Memorial Mass 10am Friday 21st December 2018 at St Mary's Church, Prescot Rd Aughton, following on to the Dog and Gun, Long Lane, Aughton to celebrate Tony's life. All welcome.

DEATHS

ASPINALL ALICE FREDA

16th December 2018 Passed away peacefully in hospital aged 92 years, of Simonswood, formerly of Aughton

Loving Wife of the late John, Dearly loved Mum to Julie, dear Mother-in-law to Harold, much loved Nana to Katherine, Richard and Robert and Great Nana to Rosie, Harry and Elsie. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Thursday 20th December at 9.30am. Family flowers only please but donations if so desired for the Osteoporosis Society.

Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors. 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 424888

BOND CONSTANCE 'CONNIE'

9th December 2018, aged 75 years

Loving Wife of the late Brian. Devoted Mother to Steven, Michael and Marilyn. Wonderful Grandmother to Abigail, Harry and Owen. Mother in law to Lynda and Dawn. She will be sadly missed by all her Friends and Family. Funeral service to take place on Friday 21st December at 2.30pm at Holmeswood Methodist Church, followed by a committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only please, however if desired donations are being gratefully received for Holmeswood Methodist Church. All enquires to H Johnson & Sons Funeral Directors, 1a Ralph's Wife's Lane, Banks, Southport, PR9 8ER. Tel: 01704 505252.

DEATHS

CARRUTHERS JOYCE

14th December 2018 peacefully with her family around her at The Beaufort Care Home aged 84 years

Dearly loved wife of Jim. Loving Mum of Michael, Kathryn and Alan. Devoted Nana of James, Thomas and Matthew. Joyce will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough L40 7SP, Friday 28th December 2018 at 11.30am.

Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for The Alzheimer's Society.

Further enquiries to Co-operative Funeralcare, 22c Wigan Road, Ormskirk L39 2AU. Tel: 01695 577244

STEELE CHARLOTTE ANN (VICKY)

4th December 2018 Aged 90 years

Passed away peacefully at Holly Bank Nursing Home. Dearly loved Wife of the late Brian, much loved Mum of Roz and Karen and Mother in law to Paul. A very special Nana of Kelly, Rachel and Ashleigh, Great Nana to Tia, Eloise and Evanna. A dear Sister, Auntie and good Friend. Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 21st December 2018 at 12:40pm. No flowers please, but if desired donations are being collected for The Stroke Association UK. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR, Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

BARTON GEORGE LEONARD

13th December 2018 Passed away peacefully in hospital aged 89 years of Haskayne

Dearly loved Husband of the late Mary, much loved Dad of Rosanne, dear Father-in-law of Peter & loving Grandad of Tansy. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Thursday 3rd January at 10.45am. Family flowers only please but donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice.

Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 424888

BENTHAM DAVID HENRY

Passed away on 7th December 2018 aged 72 years

Much loved Husband of Pauline. Much loved Dad of Philip and Joanne. David will be sadly missed by all his family, friends and all who knew him. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Wednesday 19th December 2018 at 3.15pm. Family flowers only please, but donations are being gratefully received by the family for C.O.P.D

Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

Want to place a family announcement?
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DEATHS

HEWITT JEAN (NEE CARR)

Passed away peacefully 12th December 2018 aged 87 years of Haskayne

Loving Mum, Nan, Auntie and Great-Grandmother. Loved and missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service and Interment at St. Thomas' Church, Lydiate on Thursday 27th December at 1.00pm.

Flowers and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter. MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, Tel: 01695 424888.

BARDY MARY ELIZABETH (Betty)

13th December 2018

Aged 87 years

Died peacefully at Daffodil Lodge Care Home. Loving Mum of Elisabeth. Much loved Sister of Peter. Betty will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Interment to take place first at Christ Church, Parbold on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 12:00pm followed by service of celebration at Lord Street West United Church, Southport at 1:00pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers are being collected for Water Aid. The family have requested no black clothing to be worn please.
Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Director, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

IN MEMORIAM

BALL JOHN A

21st December 2015

3 years today

What would I give to clasp his hand, his happy face to see, to hear his voice, and see his smile that meant so much to me.
Loving wife Pauline, Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren
xxxxx

IN MEMORIAM

GRIFFIN JOHN

25th December 2015

You are always in our hearts. Missing you every day.
Wife Muriel, son John and all the family xxx

MCCOY BERNARD

22nd December 2008

10 years anniversary always in my heart. Miss you every day. Love you forever.
Your Wife Vera and all the family xxx

QUINN FRANK

In memory 22/12/2017

One year has gone by since you have passed away, we miss you everyday from your loving wife Ruth and son's Anthony and Francis

HAMPSON ERIC

23rd December 2017

One Year

No One sees my broken heart
That lies beneath my smile
No One knows the lonliness
That's with me all the while
No matter how life changes
No matter what i do
A special place within my heart
Is always there for you.

Your Loving Wife.
Sheila
XX
All Family
X

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West Lancashire Borough Council

Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/1167/FUL Construction of a artificial grass pathway/track on playing field to the rear of the school (retrospective) at St Marys Catholic Primary School, Hall Road, Scarisbrick.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/1235/FUL Residential development to include 4 No. self-contained apartments and an attached dwelling. Two storey development with associated car parking and amenity spaces at Railway Hotel, 1 Station Road, Parbold.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/1260/FUL Demolition of existing timber storage buildings. Erection of new timber storage building and associated external works at Ramsay Timber And Building Supplies, Skull House Lane, Appley Bridge.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/1261/OUT Outline - Infill development for up to 4 dwellings. All matters reserved at Land Adjoining Bescar Lane Station, Bescar Lane, Scarisbrick.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
2018/1266/FUL Single storey extension to form a new entrance and ground floor bedroom and ensuite at Harrock Hill Barn, Sanderson Lane, Hilldale.
The application affects a Listed Building.
2018/1269/LBC Listed Building Consent - Single storey extension to form a new entrance and ground floor bedroom and ensuite at Harrock Hill Barn, Sanderson Lane, Hilldale.
The application affects a Listed Building.
2018/1270/FUL New boundary brick wall to replace existing deteriorating fence at Palace House Farm Cottage, Hall Lane, Lathom.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e-mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 24 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

How information about you will be used
The personal data you provide will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties in processing planning and related applications. Some of the personal information, including your name and address, you provide will be published. For further information about this notice or how we use your personal data please see: http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-privacy-notices/level-2-development-management-cil-privacy-notice.aspx and http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/legal-statements-and-foi/privacy-and-data-protection-gdpr.aspx. Hard copies are available on request.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI — Dated:19th December 2018
Director of Development and Regeneration — PDNOT1025

WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL
FEES FOR PRIVATE HIRE & HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER, OPERATOR & VEHICLE LICENCES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 70(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (the Act), that West Lancashire Borough Council intends to vary the maximum fees specified in Section 70(2) of the Act to be charged for the granting of private hire and hackney carriage driver, vehicle and operator licences with effect from the 1st April 2019 as follows:

	Existing (2018/19)	Proposed (2019/20)	Proposed fee comprised of (a) initial fee; and (b) successful application fee
Driver Licence Applications – Hackney Carriage, Private Hire and Dual			
Driver Licence New (3 year licence)*	£134.92	£172.92	N/A
Driver Licence Renewal (3 year licence)*	£89.09	£127.09	N/A
* Applications incur additional fees not set by the Council. These include online Disclosure and Barring Service enhanced disclosure (including validation and update service) and medical examination.			
Vehicle Licence Applications – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire			
Hackney Carriage New (12 month licence - incl. plate)	£193.77	£201.77	(a) £101.69; (b) £100.08
Hackney Carriage Renewal (12 month licence - incl. plate)	£183.08	£191.08	(a) £66.72; (b) £124.36
Private Hire Vehicle New (12 month licence - incl. plate)	£171.95	£179.95	(a) £101.69; (b) £78.26
Private Hire Vehicle Renewal (12 month licence - incl. plate)	£161.04	£170.90	(a) £66.72; (b) £104.18
Private Hire Operator Licence Applications (5 year licence):			
1 - 10 Vehicles	£160.36	£168.36	(a) £87.43; (b) £80.93
11 - 20 Vehicles	£248.46	£256.46	(a) £87.43; (b) £169.03
21 - 30 Vehicles	£390.51	£398.51	(a) £104.92; (b) £293.59
31 - 40 Vehicles	£493.42	£501.42	(a) £104.92; (b) £396.50
41 - 50 Vehicles	£640.47	£648.47	(a) £140.92; (b) £507.55
Over 50 Vehicles	£729.56	£737.56	(a) £157.38; (b) £580.18
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing – general			
Transfer of Vehicle Licence (change of owner)	£15.83	£17.49	N/A
Replacement Vehicle Plate	£15.83	£17.49	N/A
Replacement Driver Badge	£15.83	£17.49	N/A
Duplicate Driver Licence	£15.83	£17.49	N/A
Duplicate Vehicle Licence	£15.83	£17.49	N/A
Re-sit Knowledge Test	£15.83	£17.49	N/A
Other administrative changes	£15.83	£17.49	N/A

A copy of this Notice will be displayed on the Council's website as well as deposited at Council Offices located at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale. The Notice will be open to public inspection without payment for a period of twenty-eight (28) days from the date of publication of this Notice. Any objections or representations in respect of the above-mentioned variation of licence fees may be made in writing to the Director of Leisure and Wellbeing within the period specified above.

Dated: 19 December 2018

Heidi McDougall, Director of Leisure and Environment
West Lancashire Borough Council, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way,
Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 8EE
www.westlancs.gov.uk

LOTTERY RESULTS

QUEENSCOURT 2000 DRAW RESULTS

This week's £1,500 Prize Winner lives in Bushby's Lane, Formby

£1,500 = 306851 £100 = 364219

Winners of £20 are as follows:

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100142	25730
29230	24213
19845	71718
93554	315215
25821	26752
114973	163933
26298	23732
179090	26134

JOSPICE LOTTERY WINNERS
Friday 14th December 2018

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PUBLIC NOTICES

DENNIS ALLEN SMITH (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Aughton Park Care Home 1 Aughton Park Drive Ormskirk L39 5QE formerly of 10 Montgomery Road Liverpool L9 8DQ, who died on 14/10/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 22/02/2019, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Kammac PLC of Gladden Place, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 9SY is applying to add and operating centre to keep 10 vehicles and 20 trailers at the M58 Distribution Centre, Gillibrands Road, Skelmersdale WN8 9TB.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Chancelevel Ltd trading as Tydesley Distribution Services Ltd of Mort Lane, Tydesley, Manchester, M29 8PF is applying for a licence to use Essity UK Ltd, Pimbo Road, Skelmersdale, WN8 9QH as an operating centre for 6 goods vehicle and 6 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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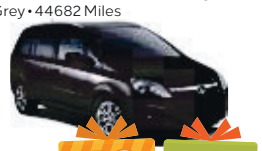

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Jeep has taken on two performance classics with its range-topping Grand Cherokee Trackhawk

'All I Want for Christmas is You' could finally snatch its first UK number one...

AS YOU read this week's *Champion* two classic festive hits are thundering their way up the charts. With a bit of momentum behind them either Wham!'s lovable Yuletide ballad, *Last Christmas*, or Mariah Carey's *All I Want for Christmas Is You* could finally snatch a UK number one – but I'd understand if Ariana Grande holds the top spot for yet another week.

Sorry for going all *Top of the Pops* on you, but at least you'll understand if something released two or three decades ago doesn't quite match the performance of something that's brand new. It's just a shame that Jeep, if its latest publicity stunt is anything to go by, clearly doesn't.

It lined its Grand Cherokee Trackhawk – an off-roader packing a 710bhp, 6.2-litre V8 – up against a TVR Griffith and an Audi quattro in a quarter-mile drag and then stood back, trying not to look surprised, when the monster-engined SUV won. That's right – a sports car introduced in the early Nineties and a coupe so old that Gene Hunt used one in *Ashes to Ashes* went up against a brand-new car with an enormous supercharged engine, and lost.

All of which is about as useful as sticking The Shard next to Liverpool Cathedral and declaring the showroom-fresh skyscraper as the tallest or pointing out that a shiny new iPhone can run rings around a Nokia 3210. Jeep freely admits it's all a bit of *Top Trumps*-inspired fun, of course, but I suspect the real reason why it wasn't put next to something a bit newer is because it would've been humiliated.

Had Jeep been able to haul out a can of whup-ass on something from the class of 2018 - an Audi RS6 Avant Performance, for instance – then I suspect the petrolheads in every pub from Crossens to Crosby would've sat up and taken notice. That was what made the original Range Rover Overfinch such a big hit – not only could it outrun a contemporary Golf GTI up the straights, but Mr Hot Hatch wouldn't have been able to shake him off in the corners, either. There is something very lovable about big, chunky off-roaders being made to do daft things – and no, the new Cupra Ateca and Skoda Kodiaq vRS don't count.

I like the vaguely bonkers premise of the Grand Cherokee Trackhawk – if not the £89,995 price tag – but what this test doesn't tell you is what it'll be like on a greasy British B-road. Which is where a *proper* performance car, like the quattro and Griffith are, really comes to life.

I can't tell you who'll bag this year's Christmas number one but I can reveal, in news that'll shock precisely no one, is that a 710bhp Jeep costing nearly ninety grand will outdrag a 30-year-old Audi away from the lights. Who knew?

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

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Van Veen hopes to be back soon after injury caused match to be abandoned

Report by **Simon Driscoll**

Skelmersdale United 1
Kendal Town 1
(match abandoned after 80 mins)

AFTER torrid weather conditions saw a half-time abandonment last week at Colne, Skem's match on Saturday against Kendal Town was also halted - this time due to a serious head injury to forward Oliver Van Veen.

The game was called to an end in the 80th minute when Van Veen suffered a head injury in the centre circle.

The delay proved to be a lengthy one with the injury requiring the attendance of the emergency services and as a result the match was abandoned.

Van Veen was taken to hospital but discharged later in the evening

Speaking on social media on Sunday; "Bit of a scare yesterday but glad it was nothing serious.

"Big thank you to all the staff at Skelmersdale United and the supporters that helped out.

"Looking forward to getting back out there."

The visitors had taken a 20th minute lead through Bradley Carroll before United defender John Keatley levelled on 74 minutes.

Skem manager Paul McNally welcomed Terry Smith and Will Dunne back into the starting lineup after recent unavailability while Ronan Darcy was included on the bench after joining on work-experience from Bolton Wanderers.

Kendal opened the scoring on 20 minutes as Jacob Davis collected a through pass and advanced on goal, he squared the ball for Carroll who slotted past Terry Smith for 1-0.

The visitors could have doubled the lead as a clever run from Mark Buchan saw him pick out Brown who drew a stunning fingertip save from Smith from close range.

Brown drew a low stop from Smith a few minutes later before Dunne forced a similar stop from Stuart Dixon at the other end as did Dave Moore from a central position.

Kendal had a chance to double their advantage on 35 minutes with Brown collecting a through pass to advance on goal before being denied one-on-one by Smith.

United's Sean Yeldrem hit a low shot across the goalframe just before half-time.

Buchan swept a free kick over the target early in the second half ahead of a lofted cross from Louis Keegan finding the head of substitute Van Veen who headed narrowly over the bar from close range.

United levelled the game on 74 minutes as a free-kick from Dunne cannoned off the wall into the path of John Keatley who slotted past Dixon for 1-1.

Kendal came close to restoring the lead within a minute of the restart as Carroll curled an effort towards goal which saw an acrobatic stop from Smith.

Marvin Molyneux fired an effort over the bar before the match was halted around the 80 minute mark due to the injury to Van Veen.

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All and then nothing in festive fixture lists

IT is a case of all and then nothing for the two local clubs over Christmas this year, as Skelmersdale United are away to Leek Town on Saturday while Burscough travel a similar route to visit Winsford United.

Boxing Day sees both sides at home with 3pm kick offs, Skem entertain their landlords Prescot Cables at Volair Park and Burscough entertain Litherland Remyca.

Then both teams are without a game on Saturday, December 29 and Burscough don't play again until Saturday, January 5 and Skem bring in the New Year with an away encounter at league leaders Runcorn Linnets.

Skelmersdale will be hoping for a better day on Saturday than they had on the first day of the season back in August when they lost 4-0 to Leek.

Leek are seventh in the Evo-Stik Division One West table and have a decent home record, winning five out of eight games at Harrison Park.

But Skelmersdale do look a lot better since Paul McNally took over the reins at Skem and further improvement is expected from them.

Bizarrely Skelmersdale have had both their last two games abandoned when they have been drawing.

Burscough have moved up to sixth place in the North-West Counties Premier division table, their highest position since they moved into the league two years ago.

This year Winsford are struggling in the table but perhaps more significant is the fact that they have recently moved up the table with five wins out of their last six games, so Burscough's good away record will be tested to breaking point down in Cheshire.

It will be strange day for Skem on Boxing Day, almost like playing a home game away, as there are expected to be more Prescot supporters at the game than Skelmersdale followers.

Prescot are managed by former long time Skelmersdale assistant manager Brian Richardson and have a couple of former Skem players in their squad, not least top marksman Chris Almond.

Burscough will be playing a first ever league game against Litherland Remyca, but not their first game.

The team from up Dunningsbridge Road prevailed when the two met in the Liverpool Senior Cup last season when they were led by now Skem manager Paul McNally. It should be a typical local derby game.

Five star Linnets go sixth in table

Burscough 5
Abbey Hey 0

BURSCOUGH refused to let the wind and rain hamper their style of play at Victoria Park on Saturday as after playing against all the elements they were 4-0 up at the interval, writes Neil Leatherbarrow

In the end a brace each from Chad Whyte and Connor Finlayson saw them comfortably home 5-0.

The victory lifts Burscough up into sixth place in the North-West Counties Premier Division table.

Their run of injuries continued before the kick off as midfielder Danny Green was helped off the field before they had even started the game.

But the Linnets shook off the disappointment to take the lead after five minutes when new signing Connor Finlayson was clumsily fouled in the area and strike partner Chad Whyte fired home from the penalty spot.

On an impressive debut, Finlayson was the instigator for Burscough's second goal on 16 minutes.

His header was going in but was parried by Abbey goalkeeper Ross Heywood the ball running to Whyte who gratefully bagged his 22nd goal of the season.

Burscough were in control now but the visitors continued to play positive football and on a couple of occasions they threatened to break through the Burscough backline with defence splitting passes.

In the next ten minutes the highly energetic Jordan Lorde brought a good save out of Heywood then after a foul on him by Lewis Haydock Jamie Clark put a left-footed free-kick marginally wide.

Burscough back playing in their customary green shirts made the game almost secure on 34 minutes and this time it was Whyte's turn to be the creator, turning and running at the Abbey Hey defence he skilfully released Will Doherty with an excellently weighted ball, as keeper Heywood came off his line Doherty coolly slotted the ball past him into the net to make it 3-0.

If there was any doubt about the game being all over there was none at all five minutes before the end of the half, Finlayson was put free into a one on one situation with Hey keeper Ross Heywood and rolled the ball past him.

It really was a hardworking powerful performance from Burscough.

Abbey Hey may be struggling in the league but they still play football the right way but they were simply outplayed by Burscough.

Those that were expecting a deluge of goals in the second-half from Burscough with the wind now at their backs had to be satisfied by the first-half show.

Burscough never looked in any danger and considering the horrendous weather conditions they had to accept a deluge of rain instead, but Burscough still did well.

There was a fifth goal to come though, in the 56th minute Finlayson firing a shot across keeper Heywood into the far corner.

One big plus point for Burscough supporters was the appearance as substitute of Alex Parkes, he has been out with a hamstring injury since August and his guile all around the park has been missed, although he played a cameo role on the day, he did set up Doherty for an effort that was saved by Heywood, but more importantly it was a big step back towards his full fitness.

Jordan Lorde was arguably the best player for Burscough on the day, he is developing well and his work rate was tremendous, he deserves credit for it.

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